

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 1886.

A NEW RING TRICK.

One of the latest schemes for swindling greenhorns.

(Stockton Independent.)

To those who are born with a susceptibility for being imposed upon, and to people naturally innocent and unsuspecting, a perusal of the following story may prove interesting. A tricky individual has hit upon a way of making money that promises large returns for the amount of time invested. He purchases a quantity of finger rings at wholesale, paying about \$2 per dozen. The rings are gold-washed, and to the greenhorn appear to be made of the genuine metal. They are set with large, glittering stones or paste diamonds, and have the general appearance of a ring that will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100. If placed side by side with a genuine ring, it would take a person with some experience to detect the counterfeit. Equipped with his stock of rings, the operator starts for the country. He chooses to play the trick on rural victims, inasmuch as they generally have less experience and more money than city people. Much tact and shrewdness is required to work the trick, because upon its proper working depends the remunerative results.

One of the rings is placed in a conspicuous place by the road or path, and the sharper retires and awaits the coming of some farmer. He so contrives to meet the farmer near the place where the ring is lying, and if the latter sees the ring the sharper makes a jump and procures it before the farmer can wink. When the farmer wakes to the realization that he saw the ring as soon as the other fellow did he naturally grows indignant and takes little pains to conceal the fact. He informs the other fellow in language forcible and pointed that he saw the ring himself and was just going to pick it up. The sharper replies that he got the ring first, and is not disposed to relinquish it. The farmer insists that he has at least a partnership right to the ring and after much argument the sharper finally admits that the farmer has a little claim but is at a loss to know how they are going to fix it. He has no money and cannot buy the farmer's share in the ring, and perhaps the farmer wouldn't care about having the ring himself. The farmer speedily dispels this supposition and expresses his willingness to buy if they can come to a satisfactory agreement.

The sharper examines the ring carefully and says: "Let me see; I don't know much about rings, but it appears to me that this is a pretty good one. It is gold and this diamond must be worth considerable." The victim doesn't know much about jewelry but that it looks as if it might be worth something, and asks "How much will you take?" The sharper looks doubtful, but replies by asking "What will you give?" Then follows a long process of haggling, which terminates in the rustic giving the trickster a certain sum of money and pocketing the ring. The sums given vary in different cases, but the sharper scrupulously takes all he can get, which is usually upwards of \$5.

The farmer goes home in a happy humor and proudly exhibits his prize to his family. He doesn't speak an unkind word to his spouse or children during the entire evening, and the next day the boys get a holiday and the old man goes to town on business. He takes the ring to a jeweler and in an indifferent manner inquires how much it is worth. The jeweler takes it in hand, gives it a glance and smilingly answers "Twenty-five cents." The farmer doesn't say much. In fact, he can't, for, to use a popular phrase, he is completely "knocked silly." He goes home, jaws at his wife, cuffs the children, kicks the dog, and woe to the hapless neighbor who endeavors to borrow a shovel or wheelbarrow from the swindled husbandman. The ring sharper is very industrious, and places his vacation as often as opportunity permits. In case the farmer does not see the ring, the sharper patiently waits for the next corner. Several people have called at the local jewelry stores during

the past week with rings, and when told their true value were very indignant and vowed vengeance on the head of their deceiver. The operator is a man of easy manners and good address, and talks to the victim like a stump speaker. If any of his late dupes ever lay hands on him he may find that, although ranchers are not jewelry experts, they understand the art of threatening.

A CURIOUS INNOVATION.

A New Method of Displaying a Wedding Trousseau.

(Paris Cor. New York World.)

It seems almost impossible to credit the latest news from Paris that describes the last innovation in fashionable marriages in that city, which takes the form of displaying the trousseau instead of the wedding gifts. The story is that at the signing of the marriage contract of the daughter of a well-known Comtesse there was in an apartment set aside for that purpose the whole trousseau displayed. Around the apartment ran a platform with dummy figures at intervals of three or four feet, and upon them were displayed all the costumes of the bride, from the bridal toilet to the most neglige of negliges. The guests passed among them admiring and criticising, while assistants from the dress-makers who had created these confections were in attendance to point out their beauties. This is decidedly a worse style than the worst form of silver shews that used to accompany the marriages in this country and which have happily died out. But they do these things differently in France. Some things that would appear very dreadful to our Anglo-Saxon sense are not at all shocking to those peculiar people. An American woman was once aghast at finding in a shop the mother of a young girl about to be married accompanied by the fiance and two of his young male friends, turning over and examining with much discussion the lingerie that had been made to order for the bride and had just been completed. It is to be hoped this latest Parisian innovation will not be transplanted to America to increase the fashion of buying more clothes than a woman can possibly need or wear that already is so onerous a burden that a parent not long since suggested to his daughter that he would take it kindly of her if she would elope and save him the expense of the wedding and trousseau, and offered when she returned to compromise at the rate of 95 cents on the dollar of the whole sum that would otherwise be requisite.

Summer Boarders in Michigan.

(Detroit Free Press.)

He went to the farmer who had a lead of potatoes on the market yesterday, and said: "I understand you have a fine farm a few miles out. How would you like to take a few summer boarders?"

"Would they sleep in the barn on the hay?" queried the farmer.

"Oh, yes."

"Try to put on style over my family?"

"Not a bit."

"Think they'd find fault if we didn't have table-napkins or chiny dishes?"

"No, sir. They are not that kind of people."

"How could they? Those things are not for summer boarders."

"Well, if that's the kind of people they are, and they'll pay in advance and keep to themselves, we might take five or six of them at \$7 or \$8 apiece."

Approximation.

(Tid-Bits.)

Attorney (examining witness)—You say you saw the shots fired?

Witness—Yes, sir.

Attorney—How near were you to the scene of the affray?

Witness—When the first shot was fired I was ten feet from the shooter.

Attorney—Ten feet? Well, now, tell the court where you were when the second shot was fired.

Witness—I didn't measure.

Attorney—Speaking approximately, how far should you say?

Witness—Well, it approximated to half a mile.

A minister, may, occasionally, be carried away with the inspiration of his theme, but he generally gets back in time to take up the collection.—Fall River "Advance."

RAILROADS.

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SONOMA VALLEY RAILROAD.

For Sale on Reasonable Terms.

TIME SCHEDULE.

Takes Effect March 28, 1886.

Mail & Passenger—Week days only

Bound North

8:30 P. M. San Francisco 9:00 A. M.

8:45 " Sonoma Landing 7:10 "

8:55 " Sears Point 6:55 "

9:05 " McMillan 6:45 "

9:15 " Schellville 6:40 "

9:25 " Vineyard 6:35 "

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